(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to introduce a Mobile Number Portability (MNP) in the four Major metros namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata;

(b) whether number portability would be enabled by a neutral party which would maintain common database of numbers;

(c) to what extent this proposed move, including fee likely to be levied for witching over to another operator while retaining a mobile number, etc. would be "pro-choice" and "pro-customer", and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) On 12.11.2007, Government has in-principle accepted the recommendation dated 08.03.2006 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Mobile Number Portability (MNP) and has decided to introduce Mobile Number Portability in the four metro cities namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in the initial phase.

All mobile telephone service providers will implement the Mobile Number Portability by establishing logically centralized database through a neutral third party.

Mobile Number Portability will enable a mobile subscriber to change his service provider within the same service area based on his choice, while retaining his mobile number. Besides this, MNP will increase the level of competition between service providers for retaining their subscriber resulting in better customer services, network coverage, and service quality.

TRAI issues Telecom Tariff Orders (TTOs) from time to time. Therefore, the fee likely to be levied on the customer for availing MNP facility will be decided by TRAI in due course of time.

Four-laning of Hyderabad-Vijayawada section

*206. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Road Safety Forum has suggested urgent measures to complete the four-laning of the Hyderabad-Vijayawada section;

(b) the reasons for delay in this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that private vested interests have prevailed over National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to delay development of this section;

(d) whether safety measures would be introduced immediately on this section; and

(e) the schedule of work on this section by NHAI and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No such reference has been received from the Road Safety Forum. The project for four-laning of Hyderabad-Vijayawada section of NH-9 from km 40/0 to 221/500 is a part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III. It has been decided to take up 12,109 km length of National Highways under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode

in the entire country under this project. As per the Government policy, this programme is to be implemented on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis where user's fee will be levied. However, the levy of user fee would be the same whether the project is taken up on BOT basis or on Annuity basis by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). NHAI had projected this proposal of four-laning of Hyderabad-Vijayawada section of NH-9 in two packages from km 40/0 to 160/0 and km 160/0 to 221/500 as being done in other cases. The cost of the proejct as per the feasibility report works out to Rs. 1460 crore. The action has already been initiated by NHAI towards award of work by adopting two stage bidding process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Adequate road safety measures as per norms have been proposed in this four-laning project.

(e) The work under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode is likely to be awarded in the Year 2008 and expected to be completed by December, 2010.

Regulatory mechanism for real estate developers

*208. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is endorsing a regulatory mechanism for real estate developers and builders in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) As per Entry 5 of the State List in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, "Local Government" is a State subject. The regulation of private developers and builders comes under the purview of State Governments, Urban Local Bodies/Development Authorities who control their activities under the provisions of State Town and country Planning/City Development Authority Acts. However, the Government is considering formulation of a Real Estate Management (Regulation and Control) Bill which will be applicable to the National Capital Teritory of Delhi and will also act as a model legislation for other States. The Bill is at draft stage.

Amount allocated for sports

*210. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by Government for sports disciplines during the last three years, year-wise and sports discipline-wise;

(b) whether any amount is still lying unutilized; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Funds are not allocated sports discipline-wise by the Government. The Government supplements the efforts of recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) by providing